CHAPTER 14 - TRIP
PART TWO

SHREEEE
MASTER, THE WATER'S BOILING.
STARTLE
HM? OH... IT'S HOT SO LET ME GET IT.
SPACE OUT
MUNCH
MUNCH
Bread and cheese packed by Colette-san

Last night... what was that?
swallow
I'm sure it wasn't a dream.
GASP
MASTER...?
YOUR BREAKFAST IS GETTING COLD.
RIGHT...
Wait...

Mel...

loves me!?

Master, that's pepper

No, wait!

WHAT KIND OF LOVE!?

SHE SOUNDED SO DESPERATE, IT HAS TO BE- NO, BUT...

Terrible at interpersonal relations

I DON'T UNDER-STAND!

STRESS

suffers from social anxiety

Haah
I couldn't even taste breakfast...
MASTER, ARE YOU READY?
HURRY, I WANT TO PLAY OUTSIDE!
The snow will melt!
I'M READY, LET'S GO.
YAY!
BUT FIRST, MEL, YOUR SCARF-
You don't want to catch a cold.
It's warm.
Cute
Hmm
KYUN

WOW!!

IT'S THE FIRST REAL SNOW THIS YEAR!

For me... if I had to say whether I love Mel or don't...

Of course I'd say I love her.
MASTER, DO YOU KNOW HOW TO BUILD STUFF OUT OF SNOW?

But... the trouble is that "love" takes many different forms.

Affection, adoration, fondness, endearment, romance...

I SAW IN THE NEWSPAPER WITH COLETTE-SAN,

YOU CAN MAKE A SNOW CASTLE.

Romantic love...

MASTER, DO YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE A SNOW CASTLE?

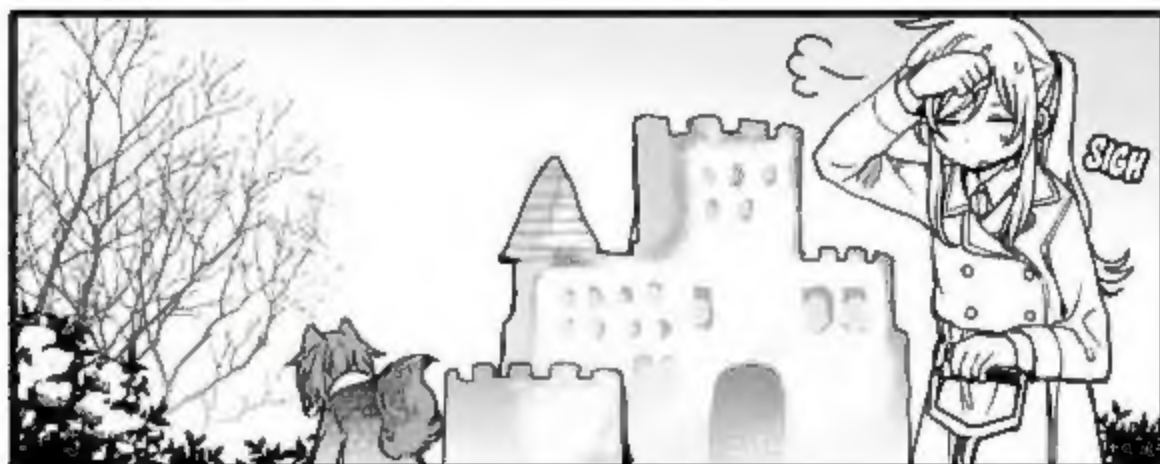
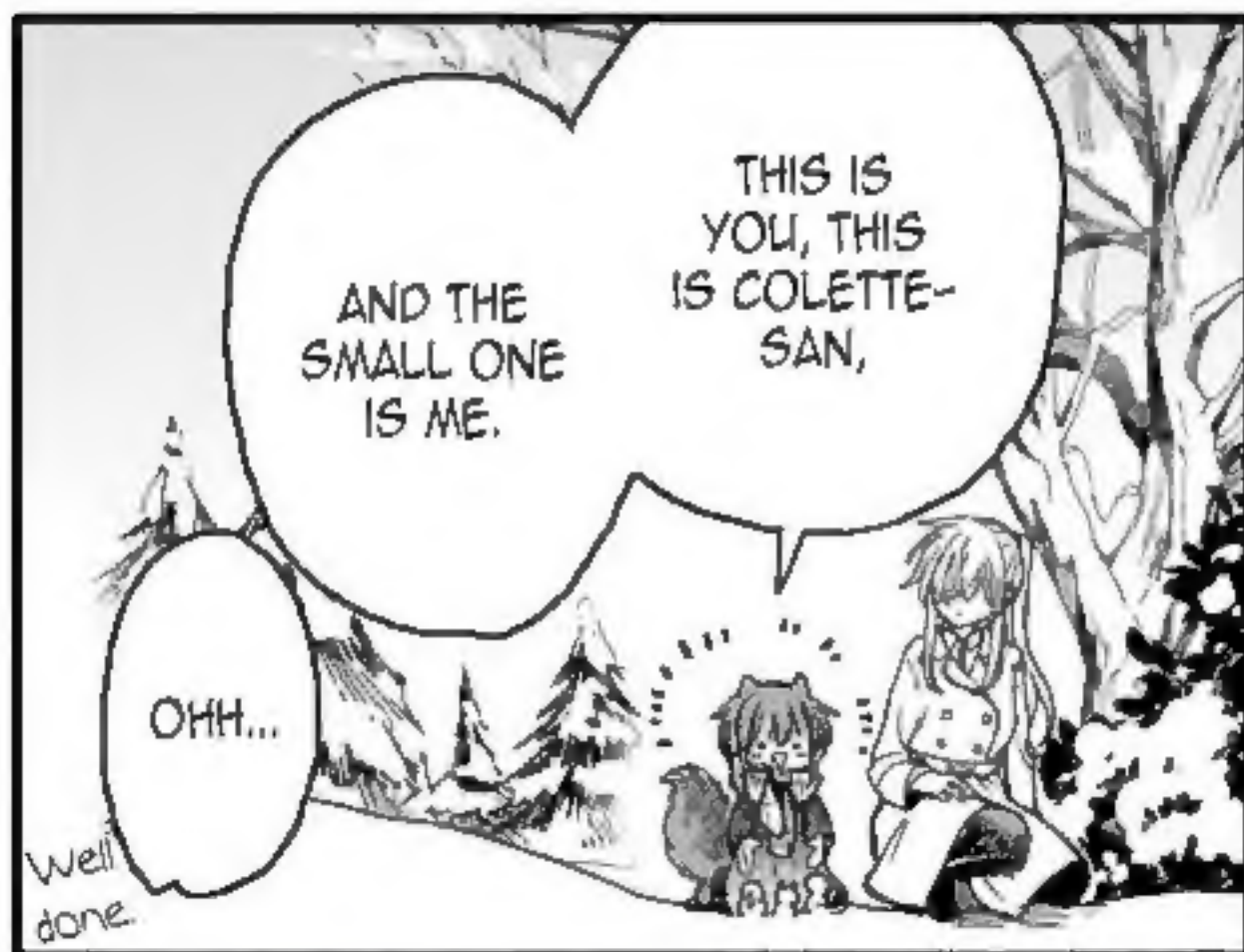
Well,

if my love for Mel is romantic,

MASTER?

Are you listening?

then I would be able to

feel physical attraction, right...?

I CAN FEEL IT...

I CAN...

I HAVE...

EEEH!

YOU CAN!?

Amazing!!

Uh-oh...

SIGH

crunch

crunch

MEL, WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?

A SNOWMAN!

HERE...

THIS IS YOU, THIS IS COLETTE-SAN,
AND THE SMALL ONE IS ME.
OHH...
Well done.
It'd be nice
if we could stay together like this forever, but...
WELL MEL, WE'D BETTER GET READY TO GO BACK TO THE MANOR SOON.
I HAVE SOME WORK TO DO THIS EVENING.
Okaay

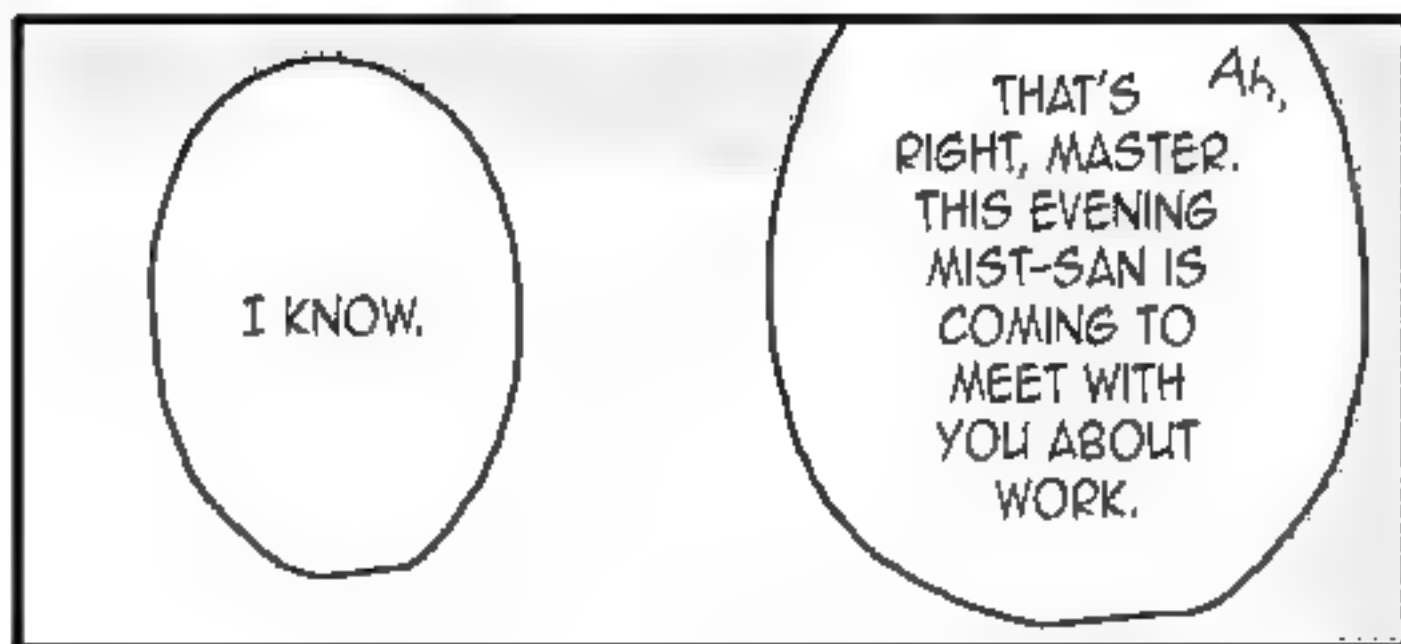
WHOOSH
katon
katon
zzz
zzz
katon
SHE FELL ASLEEP RIGHT AWAY... SHE MUST'VE BEEN TIRED.
EVEN IF MEL'S AND MY FEELINGS ARE THE SAME,
I'M HUMAN AND SHE'S BEASTKIN.

SFX: POYOYOYO-N

Once Master shares her feelings with me...
then we can become lovers!
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
hmmm
CREEP

...Will it really be as easy as that?
We're human and beastkin.
That's right. It's not that simple.
Again with that!
Adults always take easy things and make them dif-ficult!
Hmmm even if you say that, still...

WELCOME BACK, MASTER, MEL-CHAN.
CLICK
WE'RE HOME, COLETTE-SAN!
DID YOU HAVE FUN?
YES!
IT WAS MY FIRST TIME ON A TRAIN!
Oh my.
I'LL MAKE TEA, SO TAKE YOUR TIME TELLING ME ALL ABOUT IT.
SIGH
I ended up worrying all the way back but couldn't come up with an answer...
MASTER,
whisper

MEL-CHAN IS IN A MUCH BETTER MOOD COMPARED TO BEFORE THE TRIP.
I KNEW SHE'D ENJOY GOING WITH YOU.
isn't that nice?
... YOU'RE RIGHT.
Even though she was so gloomy yesterday,
now she's suddenly laughing and smiling, so much it fee s forced...
Ah,
THAT'S RIGHT, MASTER. THIS EVENING MIST-SAN IS COMING TO MEET WITH YOU ABOUT WORK.
I KNOW.
Mist...
she'll listen to me, no matter how strange the question.

LOVE,
BETWEEN HUMANS AND BEASTKIN?

"WHAT IF A HUMAN AND A BEASTKIN FELL IN LOVE?"

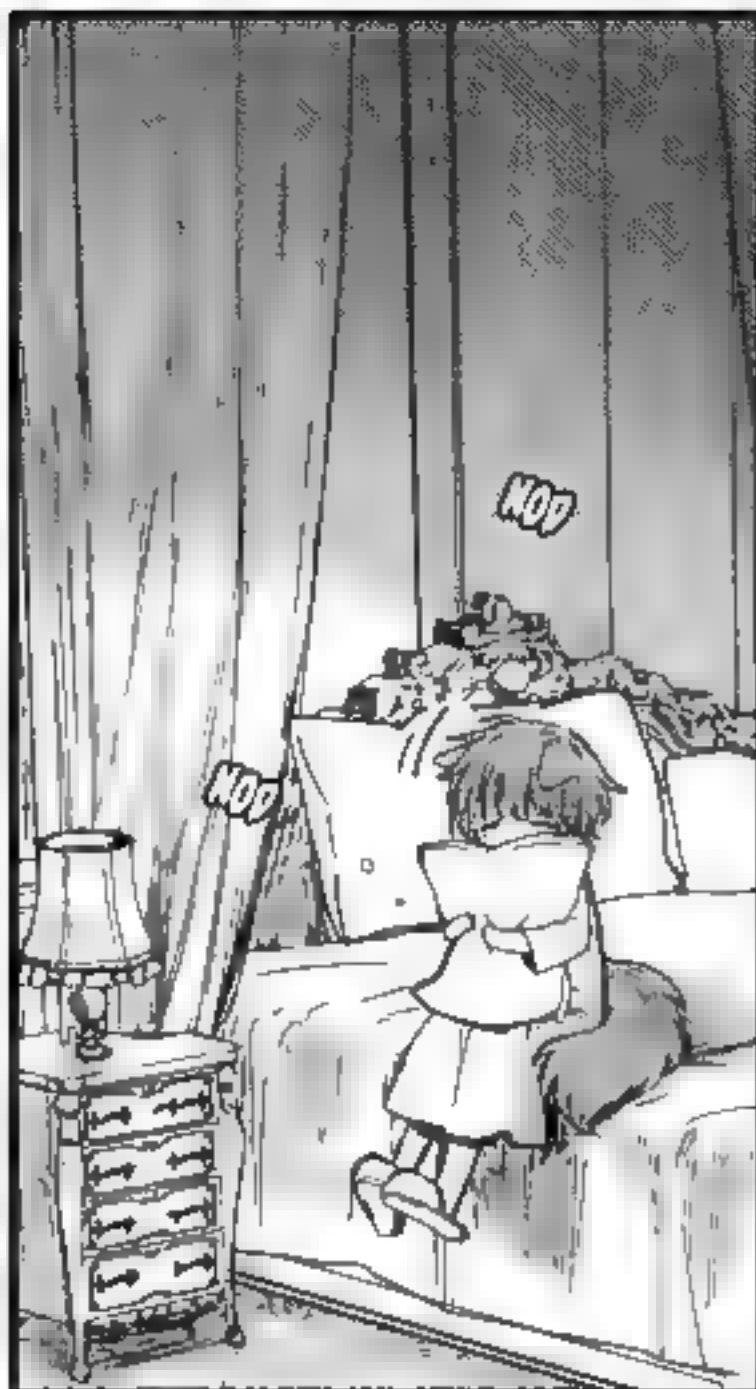
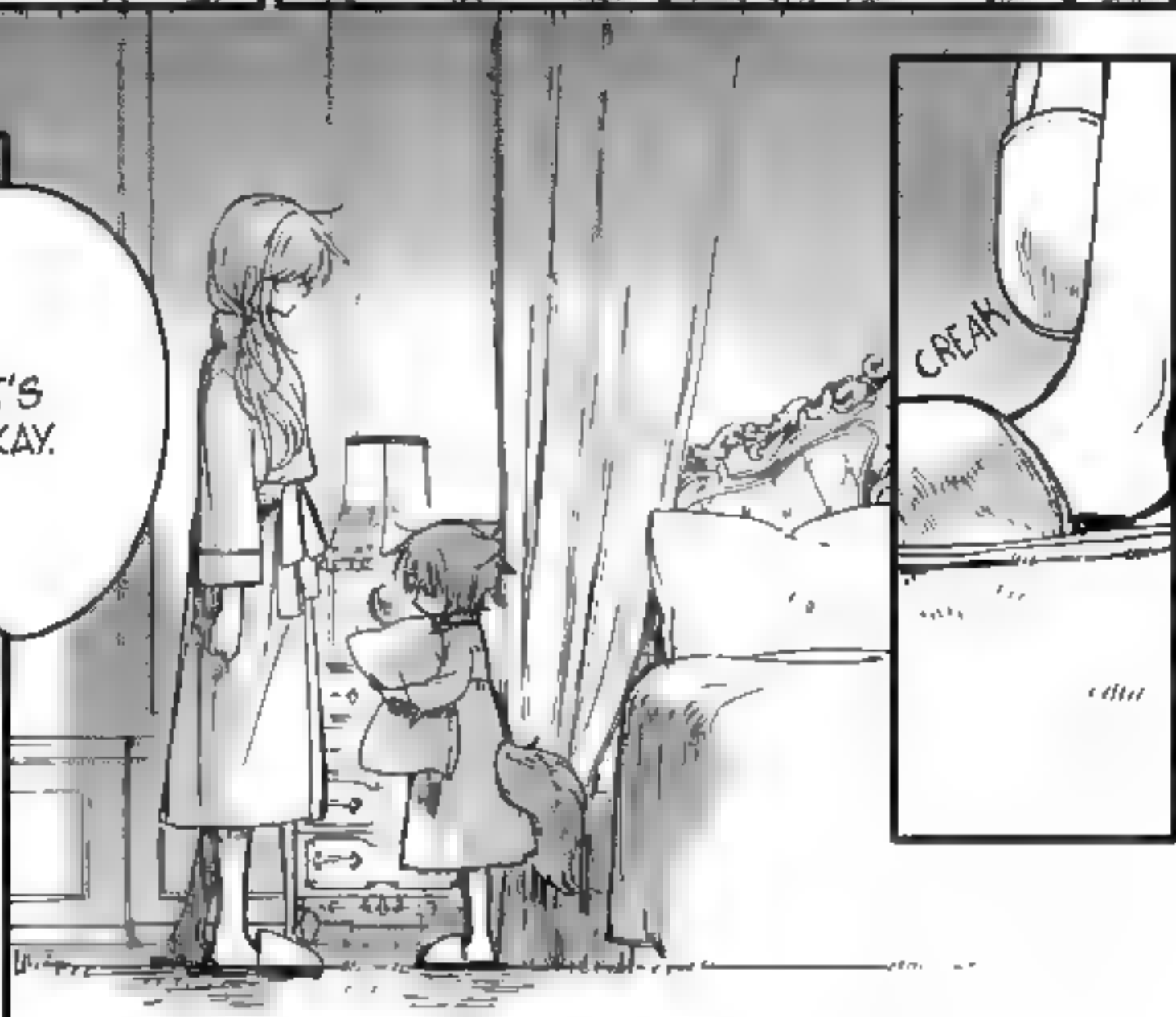
THAT'S A PRETTY DISTINCTIVE SUBJECT. A TOPIC FOR YOUR NEXT WORK..?
Ohh
SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

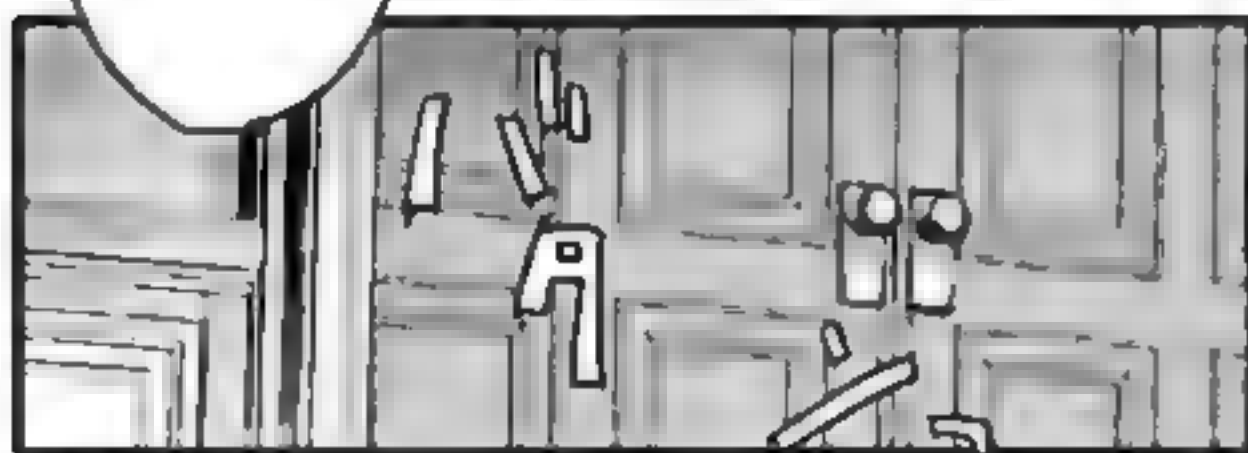
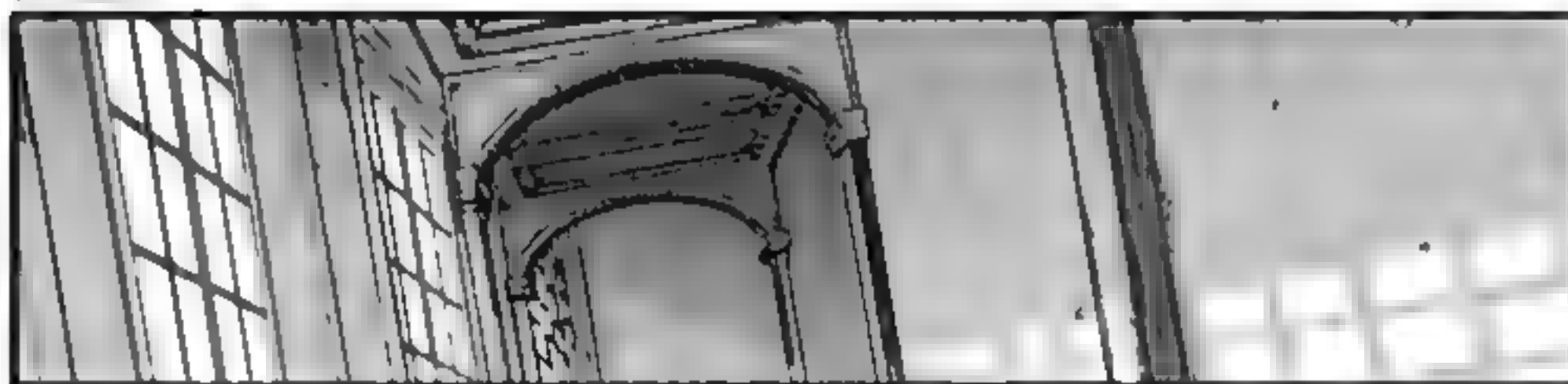
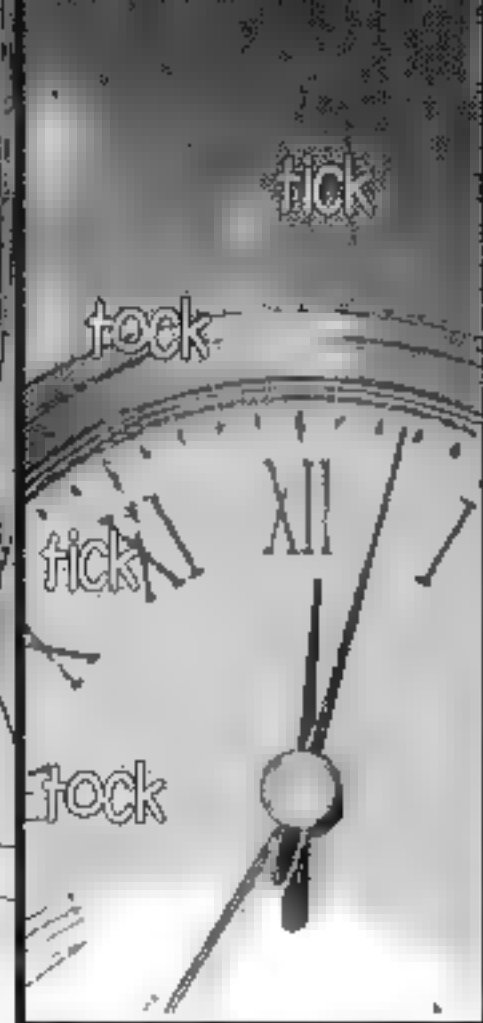
I WANT TO GET THE HONEST OPINION OF SOMEONE BORING LIKE YOU.
blow
WHY ARE YOU SO MEAN!?
You're so nasty!!
SFX. ANGRY

THE BEASTKIN WOULD PROBABLY BE TAKEN IN BY PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

AND THEN THE HUMAN WOULD BE ARRESTED.

Master,
I love you.
It's Just as
Mist says.
Mei is young,
so she doesn't
understand.
If we can't
control our
feelings...
maybe
it'd be best
to create
some distance
between us.
But that's
hard...
it'll be so
painful...
Well a dark
novel like
that would
also be good
We've
been talking
for a while!
Let's get
to work
SFX. GLOOM

CLICK
NOD
NOD
YOU WAITED FOR ME EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE TIRED?
yawn
YES.
swallow
MEL... YOU KNOW,
THIS IS A LITTLE SUDDEN, BUT...

I THINK IT'D BE BEST
IF WE SLEEP IN SEPERATE ROOMS NOW.
SEE, THAT WAY YOU WON'T HAVE TO WAIT UP FOR ME TO GO TO BED...
OF COURSE,
IF IT'S COLD AT NIGHT OR YOU GET SCARED, YOU CAN COME SLEEP WITH ME.
CREAK
IT'S OKAY.

I'VE GOTTEN PRETTY USED TO THE MANOR.
SO,
I'LL BE FINE ON MY OWN NOW.

SIGH
I SEE..
GOOD NIGHT, MASTER
YES, GOOD NIGHT MEL.
SFX SHUT

tick
tock
tick
tock
SILENCE
Why...
even thougn I'm the one who brought it up,
I'm so lonely...
Was this bed always so large, and cold...?
No...
I'm thinking about the future, this is for the best.
I mean,
didn't Mel herself smile and agree?

Did she really?

Isn't she
Just trying not to worry me and Colette...?

Smiling and saying she'll be fine just now...

The way she suddenly cheered up after being so depressed...

Even right now,
isn't she just keeping quiet and crying to herself?

That's the kind of girl Mel is...

SIT UP

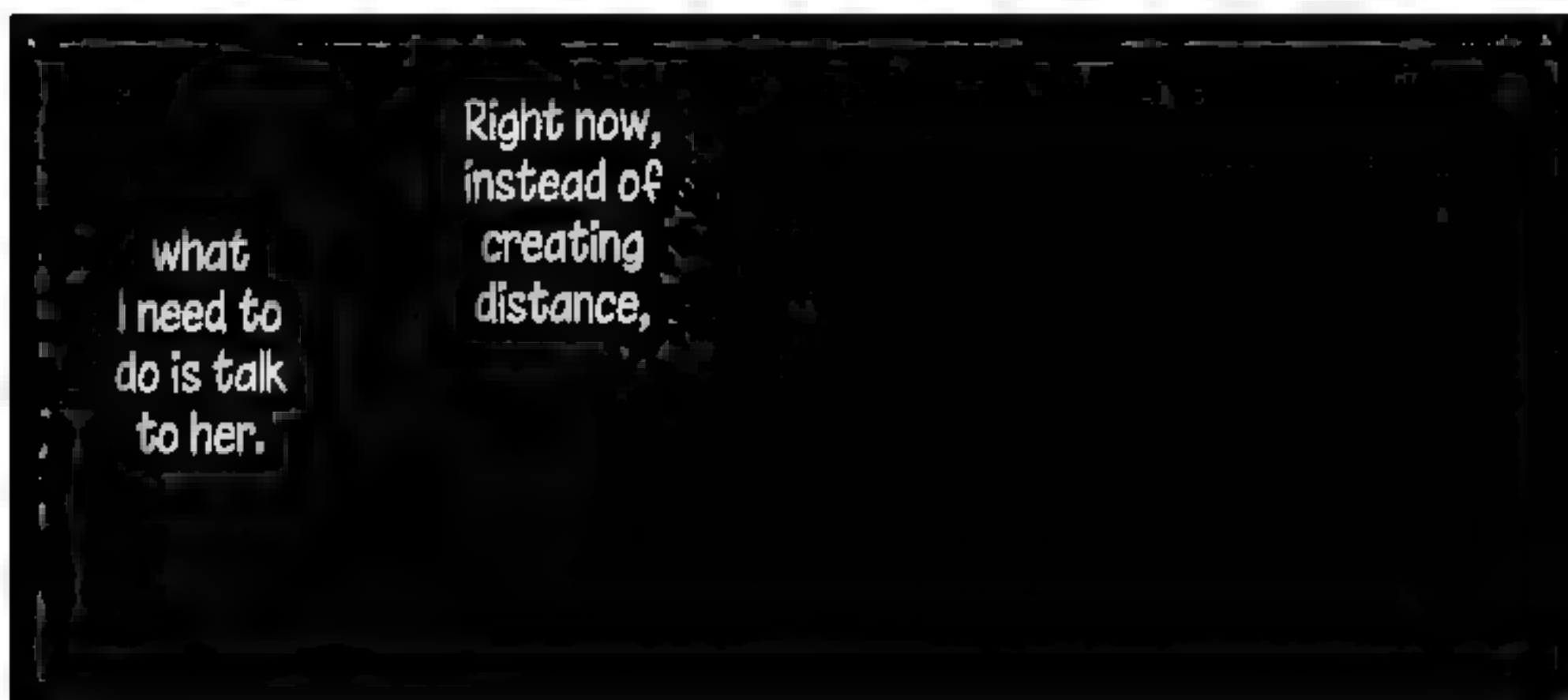
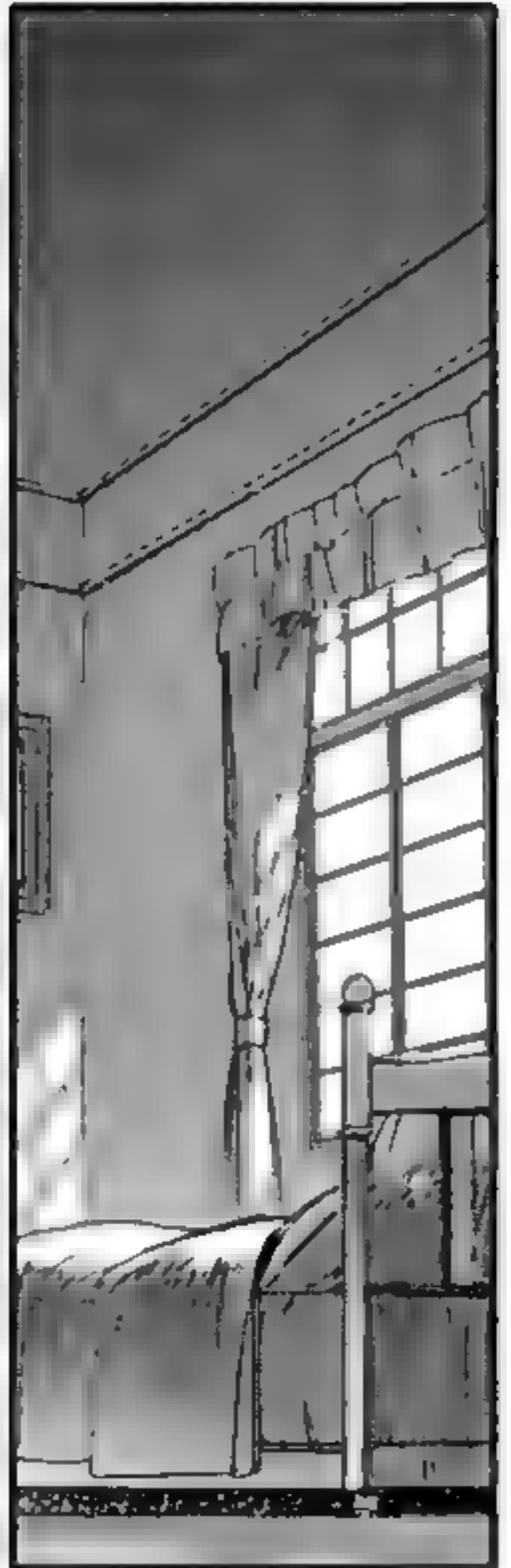
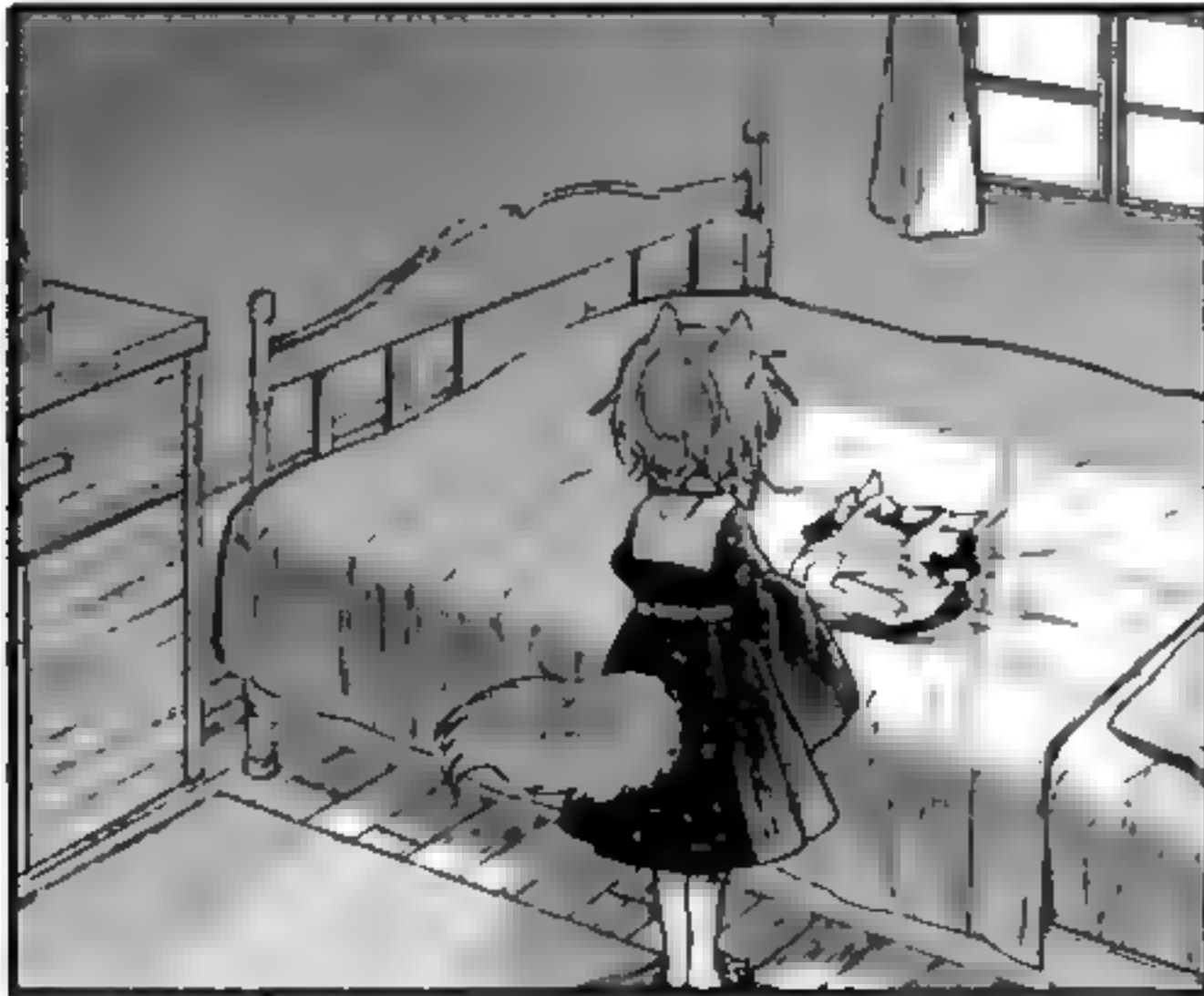
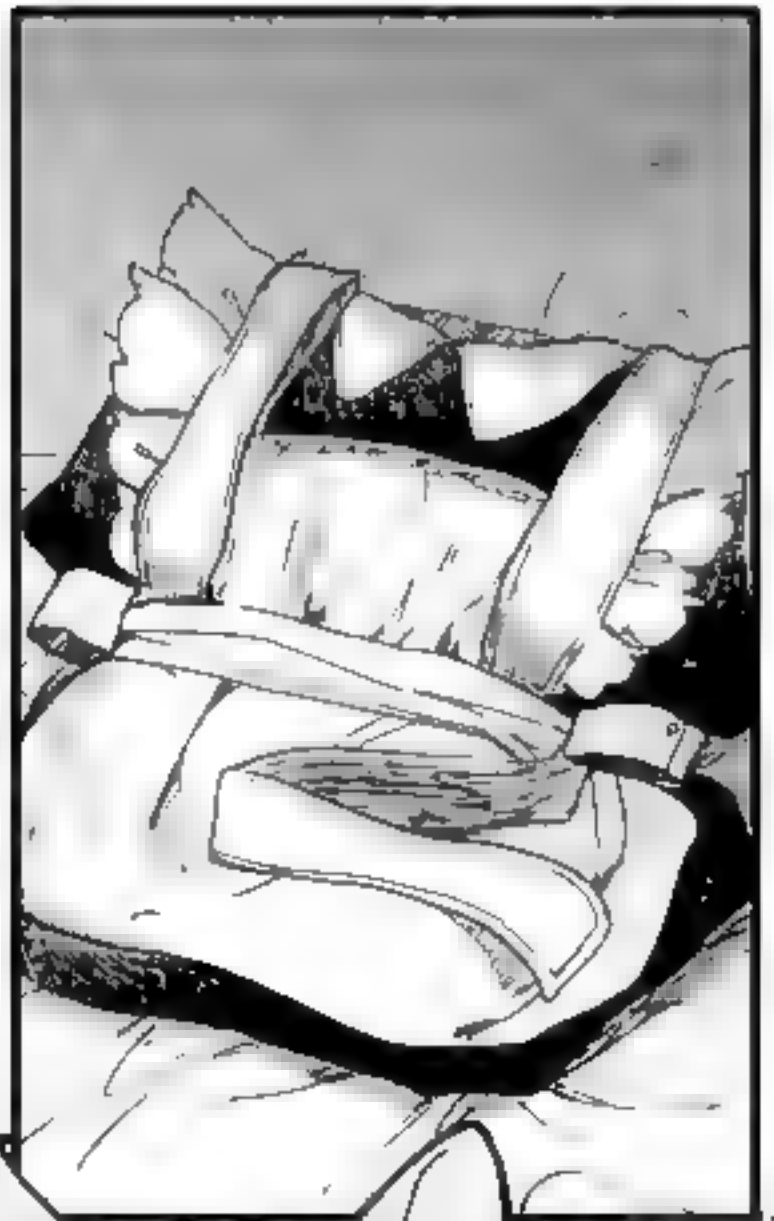
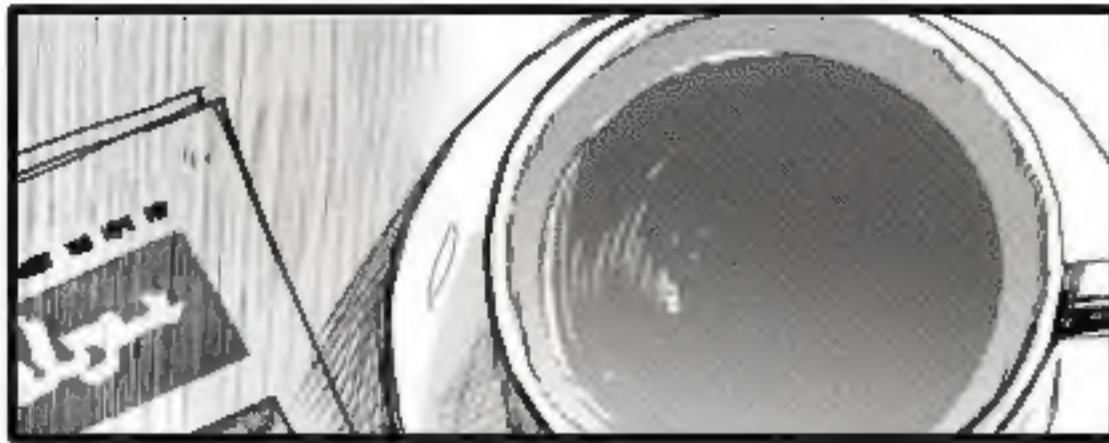
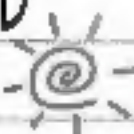
Maybe there's another way.

In the morning, I'll discuss it with her properly.

tear up
wipe
wipe
determined
CREAK

chirp
chirp
GOOD MORNING, MASTER.
MORNING, COLETTE.
glance
COLETTE... IS MEL NOT UP YET?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER AROUND THE MANOR.
Even though she's usually up earlier than you,
sigh
CLACK

running
CLICK
SL
AM
MASTER!

MEL-CHAN... SHE'S GONE!

NOVEMBER 3RD
CLEAR WITH OCCASSIONAL SNOW
A LOT HAS HAPPENED, AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PROCESS IT.
IN ANY CASE, TOMORROW I'LL APOLOGIZE TO MEL.

CHAOSTEAM CREDITS
TRANSLATION:
Schuyguy
CLEANING:
Alextasha
TYPESETTING:
Hime_Aihara
RAWS:
Cy Dup
QC:
Buding the
grumpy hedgehog